February , 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 11, and replace them with the attached claims 12-24.

REMARKS

Claims 12 - 24 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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WHAT I CLAIM IS:

12. A method for wet cleaning objects, including the step of:

bringing an object into intense contact with a cleaning fluid that comprises water and an organic solvent having good solubility properties for dirt that is to be removed, wherein within certain concentration and temperature ranges said cleaning fluid forms a solution, and outside this range has a miscibility gap, and wherein for a wet cleaning said cleaning fluid is present in the miscibility gap phase, wherein said solvent, at a temperature that prevails during said wet cleaning, is at a concentration that is greater than a concentration at which, starting with water, a miscibility gap occurs when said solvent is added to said water.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said organic solvent is present in a concentration of at least 5% by weight.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein said organic solvent is present in a concentration of at least 10% by weight.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said wet cleaning is undertaken under the effect of ultrasound.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein wet cleaning is effected at a temperature between 20° and 50° C.

17. A cleaning fluid for wet cleaning objects, comprising:

water, and

an organic solvent having good solubility properties for dirt that is to be removed, wherein within certain concentration and temperature ranges said cleaning fluid forms a solution, and outside this range has a miscibility gap, and wherein for a wet cleaning said cleaning fluid is present in the miscibility gap phase, wherein said solvent, at a temperature that prevails during said wet cleaning, is at a concentration that is greater than a concentration at which, starting with water, a miscibility gap occurs when said solvent is added to said water.

18. A cleaning fluid according to claim 17, wherein said organic solvent is propylene-glycol-ether.

19. A cleaning fluid according to claim 18, wherein said propylene-glycol-ether is present in a concentration between 10 and 30% by weight.

20. A cleaning fluid according to claim 19, wherein said propylene-glycol-ether is present in a concentration between 10 and 20% by weight.

21. A cleaning fluid according to claim 17, wherein said organic solvent is an ether-acetate.

22. A cleaning fluid according to claim 21, wherein said ether-acetate is present in a concentration between 5 and 30% by weight.

23. A cleaning fluid according to claim 22, wherein said ether-acetate is present in a concentration between 5 and 15% by weight.

24. A cleaning fluid according to claim 17, which comprises at least one further organic solvent, wherein said first mentioned organic solvent has good water-solubility, and wherein said at least one further organic solvent has poor water solubility and is readily dissolvable in said first mentioned organic solvent.